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LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

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WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER FOR THE YEAR, 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council :

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever, during the year ended December 31st, 1962.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The population is estimated at 5,320, compared with 5,088 at the time of the 1961 Census. There are 1,914 inhabited houses in the district, as against 1,910 in 1961. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £48,460, and the sum raised by a penny rate is £174.

Social conditions are reasonably good, and there is very little unemployment. The district is mainly industrial in character, the chief industries being paper making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, pre-cast concrete goods making, brick making, light engineering and dairy farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1962 was 115, as against 96 in 1961. This figure comprises 68 males and 47 females. There were 4 illegitimate births, made up of 2 males and 2 females. The birth rate is 21.6 per 1,000 of population, as against 19.4 in 1961, and a mean rate of 18.8 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 18.0.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1962 was 71. This comprises 30 males and 41 females, and is a decrease of one on the figure for 1961. The death rate is 16.7 per 1,000 of population as against 16.2 for 1961, and a mean rate of 15.8 for the previous five years. The death rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 11.9.

The average age at death was 69 years for males, and 65 years for females.

Still Births

There were no still births in 1962, thus giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, compared with a rate of 20.4 in 1961, and a mean rate of 22.2 for the previous five years.

Infantile Mortality

There were 5 deaths of children under the age of one year in 1962, compared with none in 1961. All the deaths were of female children. This gives a rate of 43.5 per 1,000 of live births, compared with a Nil rate in 1961, and a mean rate of 27.1 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 21.4.

Neo-Natal Mortality

There were 2 Neo-natal deaths in 1962, both females, giving a rate of 17.4 per 1,000 of live births. The Neo-natal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 15.1.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1962, giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, as against a Nil rate in 1961, and a mean rate of 1.55 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 0.35.

Midwifery Services

No midwives reside in the area, but there are three midwives, employed by the Lancashire County Council, who reside in Farnworth and Kearsley and who are available for cases in Little Lever. They are readily accessible, as each has a car and is on the telephone. The service given by them has been highly efficient and satisfactory, and there have been no complaints of any sort.

As in the past, many cases have been admitted to the Bolton District General Hospital and to Maternity Homes outside the district, but a large number of confinements have been successfully completed in the homes of the patients.

General Provision of Health Services in the District

Clinics and Treatment Centres	Situation	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
School Clinic	" "	" "
Chiropody	" "	" "

Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1962.

Disease	Total Cases	Males	Females	Sent to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	32	18	14	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	58	25	33	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals:	94	44	50	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

Age Periods in years	Scarlet Fever		Measles		Dysentery		Acute Pneumonia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-
1 -	-	-	5	4	1	5	-	-
2 -	-	-	5	2	1	2	-	-
3 -	-	-	2	2	3	4	-	-
4 -	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	-
5 - 9	1	1	2	4	6	6	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-	9	9	-	1
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	1	1	18	14	25	33	Nil	2

Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases (Continued)

At the end of 1962, the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 29, comprising 24 respiratory cases and 5 non-respiratory cases.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1962 was Nil, as in 1961, and a mean rate of 0.10 for the previous five years. The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System for England and Wales in 1962 was 0.059 per 1,000 of population.

Causes of Death

Disease causing death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	3	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	10	17
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	3	6
Other Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Circulatory Disease	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	7	10
Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhœa	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	2	4
All other accidents	-	3	3
Suicide	1	-	1
Totals:	30	41	71

There were 14 deaths from Cancer in 1962, compared with 7 in 1961. This gives a death rate of 2.63 per 1,000 of population, as against 1.54 in 1961, and a mean rate of 2.08 for the previous five years.

The death rate from Cancer in England and Wales in 1962 was 2.18.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Once again, no cases of this disease were notified during 1962.

District Nursing

There is one District Nurse resident in the district. As in previous years, Nurse Jackson has carried out her duties in an exemplary manner and has at all times dealt sympathetically and efficiently with all her cases. She has been an invaluable asset to the district.

The Home Help Service has again been of great assistance to the sick and aged. The members of this Service have carried out their duties in a very cheerful and efficient manner and have proved a real blessing to those who have needed their services. Unfortunately, there is still greater demand for their services than their numbers are able to cope with, and an increase in the personnel of the service would be very helpful.

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Old People's Welfare Committee

It is now eight years since this Committee was formed, and once again it has proved of great help to the community. The Officials and Members of the Committee have shown a commendable keenness and enthusiasm for the work involved and have spared no effort to maintain its financial soundness. The Chiropody Service is now paid for by the County Council and Members of the Committee act as receptionists and help in the smooth running of the scheme. During the year, about 850 treatments were given in the Clinic and some 270 domiciliary treatments were given. The Meals on Wheels Service was extended during the year, and more than 1,000 meals were delivered in the twelve months. This achievement has only been possible through the kindness of the United Ebonite and Lorival Company in providing meals from their canteen at cost price, and also through the willing help of car owners and volunteers from the Committee in delivering the hot meals to the homes of the elderly and sick people.

In addition to these two Services, gifts of groceries and sweets were distributed at Christmas time, gifts of tea and sweets were sent out on the birthdays of persons of eighty or more, and visits were made periodically by certain Members of the Committee to the homes of aged and lonely people. A Concert, with refreshments, was also organised for the old people, the whole of the costs being met from the Committee's funds.

This Service has now become a recognised and valuable part of the village life, and the old people now look upon it as a great asset and are highly appreciative of the work done to brighten their lives.

Hospital and Ambulance Service

The district is adequately served as regards hospital accommodation, and no difficulty is found in getting urgent cases admitted, but it is still very difficult at times to get old and chronically ill patients into hospital.

The ambulance service has again been most efficient. There have been no complaints and the staff of the service are deserving of the highest praise for their unfailing help and courtesy at all hours of the day or night and in all sorts of weather.

Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, Part 4
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, Parts 2 and 4
Public Health Acts 1925, Part 2 (Except Sections 22 and 25)
Private Street Works Act, 1892

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the numbers of each type, at the end of 1962, were as follows :

Privy Middens	1
Closets attached to these Middens	2
Waste water closets	27
Fresh water closets	2,381
Moveable dustbins	2,103
Number of houses on water carriage system	1,914

During 1962, two waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

Sanitary Inspections

During 1962, the number of premises visited for the purpose of sanitary inspections was 233, involving a total of 245 visits. As a result of these visits, 24 defects or nuisances were discovered. Of these, 20 were abated through the issuing of 23 informal notices, and one statutory notice, but no legal proceedings were required.

Bakehouses, dairies and cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year and have been found to be in satisfactory condition.

There are five dairy farms in the district, but no complaints have been made about the quality of the milk produced.

There are 16 food shops in the district and all have been visited and inspected periodically. Standards of hygiene in the shops are now very satisfactory, and shopkeepers now show more care and cleanliness in the display and handling of foodstuffs. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Model Bye-laws for Food Hygiene are in force, and noticesto shops and canteens are issued from time to time in order to maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,914.

During 1962, 17 bacteriological examinations and 3 chemical analyses of the raw water were made, the result being that the raw water was found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory but chemically satisfactory. In addition, 45 bacteriological examinations and 5 chemical analyses of the water going into supply after treatment, were carried out, and all were found to be satisfactory.

The water supply comes from reservoirs into which upland surface water flows. All supplies are chlorinated, and any water showing a plumbo-solvent action is lime treated. The water supply as a whole is very satisfactory, but there are several houses with a very low water pressure due to old service pipes needing renewal.

During 1962, 837 yards of 3 inch diameter pipes, and 295 yards of 4 inch diameter pipes were laid for new houses. In addition, 396 yards of 4 inch diameter pipes and 15 yards of 3 inch diameter pipes were laid to replace old mains to existing houses.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The methods used for sewage disposal were quite satisfactory during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation and filtration. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out in 1962. The Council are Members of the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board and work is proceeding on the construction of a Trunk Sewer to serve the area. It is anticipated that the connection linking the Ginger Fold Sewage Works to the Trunk Sewer will be completed in 1964.

There are three houses in the district without sewerage systems, due to the fact that they cannot be connected to a sewer. Septic tanks, of which there are two in the district, are kept in order by the owners at their expense. During 1962, 72 new houses were connected up to the sewerage system.

House refuse is collected by the Council's covered motor wagon. Collections are made each week, and the one remaining privy midden is cleared every fortnight. All refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal (Continued)

All sewers and manholes have been periodically inspected, and sewers have been flushed and manholes cleaned from time to time, whilst regular treatment has been carried out to control rat infestation.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council are members of the South East Lancashire and North Cheshire Consultative Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution. There are 11 factory chimneys in the district, but no complaints were received and consequently no observations on them were made during the year. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half hour. Personal contact by the Public Health Inspector is maintained with works managers, and consultations are held when necessary with H.M. Alkali Inspector to deal with problems of dust and fumes emitted on occasion from a chemical firm in the district. Every effort is made to keep the emission of black smoke down to a minimum.

It has still not been possible to put into force the Byelaws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The district still suffers pollution of the atmosphere from acrid blue smoke from a local foundry and from fine dust blown from heavily laden coal wagons passing through the district.

A smokeless zone containing 239 houses and other buildings has been mapped out, but owing to technical difficulties, it has not, as yet, been possible to bring the zone into operation.

Housing

During 1962, no new houses were completed under Council contracts, but 72 new houses were built by other bodies or persons. A scheme for the building of 34 two-bedroom type dormer bungalows was begun for the Council in the latter part of the year.

Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority

1.	Under 1919 Scheme	113
2.	Under Housing Act, 1923	11
3.	Under Housing Act, 1924	122
4.	Erected during 1936	30
5.	Erected during 1937	38
6.	Erected during 1938	34
7.	Erected during 1947	14
8.	Erected during 1948	32
9.	Erected during 1949	44
10.	Erected during 1951	30
11.	Erected during 1952	22
12.	Erected during 1955	52
13.	Erected during 1956	58
14.	Erected during 1957	12
15.	Erected during 1959	40
16.	Erected during 1961	40
	Total:	692

The general standard of housing in the district is fairly good. The prevalent type of house is the four-roomed cottage, built in rows, each with two bedrooms. There are about 650 of these, but of this number, about 120 are in very poor condition and should be demolished. The main defects to be found are dampness, low ceilings, absence of bathrooms and inside lavatories, poor water pressure, absence of hot water systems, and old age. As no maintenance has been carried out on them they have gone steadily from bad to worse and are now in a deplorable state.

During 1962, there were 17 applications submitted to the Council for Standard Grants, and of these, 15 were approved. Nine of these applications were for all five basic amenities, one was for three amenities, three were for two amenities, and two were for four amenities. One application was withdrawn, and the work was completed in thirteen cases. No applications for Improvement Grants were made during 1962. It is regrettable that more owners of older houses do not avail themselves of the opportunity of improving their property by means of the Standard Grants and Improvement Grants. Many of these houses are better built than some of the houses being built today, and their life could be prolonged for many years by taking advantage of these grants.

Plans have been approved for the erection of a Hostel to accommodate 18 old persons, with a Communal Room and a Warden's quarters on the Arthur Street/Independent Street Site.

The waiting list for Council Houses is now much smaller than it was a few years ago, due to some extent to the activities of private builders who build houses for sale. In many instances, however, the standards of building and quality of materials used have been below expectation, and it would appear that a stricter measure of supervision is needed to ensure that future building is up to the required standards.

Slum clearance has shown some improvement compared with 1961. During 1962, 14 unfit houses were closed under the appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1957. These involved the displacement of 14 families comprising 32 persons. In addition, one house in a Clearance Area was purchased by agreement and the sole occupant re-housed. Six unfit houses were made fit by the owner as a result of informal action by the local authority.

There are still a few cases of overcrowding in the district, mainly in the older houses, but as more houses are built, these cases should soon be eliminated.

Town Planning

The County Council have delegated powers to the Local Authority for the purposes of Town Planning, and very close co-operation exists between the Local Authority and the County Council in all matters appertaining to Town Planning.

Disinfection

Two houses were disinfected during the year after notifications of infectious diseases. The method used is Formaldehyde Vapour in the sealed room of the house. One house, not a Council house, was found to be infested and was disinfested by spraying with insecticide.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccinations against Small Pox and immunisations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, together with immunisations against Poliomyelitis have been carried out during the year by the staff of the Mytham Road Clinic and by general practitioners. Parents of children are now taking full advantage of the immunisation service provided by the Clinic and most of the immunisations are carried out in the Clinic. The actual figures of vaccinations and immunisations performed during the year were not available at the time of making this report, but doubtless the figures will be shown in the Annual Report of the Divisional Medical Officer for the No.11 District, of which Little Lever is a part.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1962 was quite good. There was a small epidemic of Dysentery, but all the cases were of a mild nature and there were no complications.

The death rate showed little change from the rate for 1961, but the birth rate was higher than for 1961.

Deaths from Cancer were higher than in 1961 and the Infantile Mortality rate was unfortunately higher, but again, it is gratifying to report, there were no maternal deaths.

The building of houses by private builders reached a high figure during 1962, but no new Council houses were completed, although a start had been made on the erection of 34 Dormer Bungalows.

Slum clearance is still lamentably slow, and it would be refreshing to know that the problem was to be tackled with vigour and determination. The elimination of the old, unfit houses, and the replacement of the unhygienic tippler closets by modern sanitation, are matters which require urgent consideration.

The bowling-green, tennis courts and playing fields provided by the Council have again been well patronised and have been greatly appreciated by the majority of the public, but there are still certain anti-social elements whose only aim in life appears to be one of destruction of public property.

The School Clinic and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic have again been most beneficial and have now become accepted as an integral and essential part of the social services.

The population of the district is now higher than it has ever been. The building of houses, by private builders, for sale, has attracted many more people to the area, and the probability is that the population will steadily increase for some years to come, but in order to encourage this trend, due regard must be had for the clearing of the bad property in the area.

Litter in the streets is still a disgrace. Every 'bus stop in the district is strewn with 'bus tickets which passengers are too lazy or too careless to drop into the receptacles provided, whilst every sweet shop in the district has outside the debris of toffee papers, lollipop sticks and cartons. If a prize were to be offered for the most untidy village in the County, Little Lever would certainly be well in the running for winning the prize. One can only hope that the general public will take heed of the exhortations on the "Keep Britain Tidy" posters, but at the moment, the only solution would appear to be the salutary effect of a number of prosecutions.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health

May 31st, 1963.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961
(Ref. item (13) page 9 of form Stat.11)

PART I OF THE ACT.

(13) 1 - INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	11	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	27	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	2	4	NIL	NIL
Total	31	42	NIL	NIL

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)			NIL		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	-			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes	NIL	-			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	NIL	-			
Total	1	1	NIL	1	NIL

P.T.O.

3. Outwork. (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)

W. Mottershead
Signed.....
Medical Officer of Health

Date March 30th 1963.